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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of magnetic particles, ~~characterized in that the magnetic particles are produced by decomposition of said process comprising decomposing~~ low-valency compounds of the metals of the magnetic particles in the presence of an organometallic compound of a metal of group 13.
2. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the magnetic particles produced ~~having~~ have a mean particle size between 3 and 15 nm and a particle size distribution with a standard deviation of not more than 1.6 nm.
3. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim ~~[[1,]]~~ 2. wherein the mean particle size ~~being~~ is established by the nature and concentration of the organometallic compound ~~used~~.
4. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organometallic compound ~~used being~~ is an organoaluminum compound.
5. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the low-valency compounds ~~used being these of~~ comprise iron, of cobalt or of nickel or mixtures thereof.
6. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the low-valency compounds are carbonyl compounds of iron, of cobalt or of nickel ~~being used~~.
7. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the low-valency compounds are olefin compounds of iron, of cobalt or of nickel ~~being used~~.
8. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the organoaluminum compound ~~used being~~ is an aluminumtrialkyl or an alkylaluminum hydride.

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9. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decomposition being decomposing is effected by thermolysis.

10. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decomposition being decomposing is effected by photolysis or sonochemically.

11. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises protecting the magnetic particles produced being protected in an organic solvent by aftertreatment with air.

12. (Original) A monometallic or polymetallic magnetic particle having a mean particle size, determined by TEM, of between 2 and 15 nm and a particle size distribution with a standard deviation of not more than 1.6 nm.

13. (Original) The magnetic particle as claimed in claim 12, which contains iron, cobalt or nickel.

14. (Currently Amended) The magnetic particle as claimed in claim 12 or 13, which is protected ~~according to claim 11~~ by aftertreatment with air.

15. (Currently Amended) Method of using a magnetic particle as claimed in claim 12 for the preparation of magnetofluids having high saturation magnetization with the aid of dispersants.

16. (Currently Amended) Method of using the magnetic particle as claimed in claim 12 after application of a cell-compatible coating as a magnetic cell marker.

17. (Currently Amended) Method of using the magnetic particle as claimed in claim 12 for magnetic cell separation.

18. (Currently Amended) Method of using the magnetic particle as claimed in claim 12 for magneto-optical information storage.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

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